

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04
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PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, BG, JA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TO BANGLADESH

1. SUMMARY: JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER ICHIRO HATOYAMA VISITED DACCA JULY 17-18 TO DISCUSS JAPANESE AID TO BANGLADESH AND SIGN NEW DOLS 65.3 MILLION AID COMMITMENT FOR FY 1977/78. VISIT WAS REPORTEDLY MARRED FROM BDG VIEW-POINT BY LECTURE DELIVERED BY HATOYAMA ON NEED FOR GREATER PRIVATE SECTOR ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT AND JAPAN'S UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMIT MAJOR NEW PROJECT AID. FOLLOWING BASED ON PRESS AND OTHER SOURCES. END SUMMARY.

2. HATOYAMA ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING FY 1977/78 JAPANESE AID COMMITMENTS TO BANGLADESH:

A. DOLS 56.1 MILLION (15 BILLION YEN) COMMODITY CREDIT ON JAPAN'S MOST CONCESSIONAL TERMS (I.E., 1.75 PERCENT INTEREST, 30- YEAR TERM, 10-YEAR GRACE PERIOD). (JAPANESE COMMODITY CREDIT TO BDG FOR FY 1976/77 WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DOLS 44.8 MILLION.);
B. DOLS 3.8 MILLION (1.8 BILLION YEN) IN GRANT FOOD AID FOR PURCHASE OF RICE; TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO BE PAID BY JAPAN. (GRANT FOOD AID IN FY 1976/77 WAS DOLS 6.7 MILLION);
C. DOLS 5.2 MILLION (1.4 BILLION YEN) IN PROJECT AID; PROJECTS NOT ANNOUNCED. (FY 1976/77 PROJECT AID

WAS DOLS 11 MILLION.);

D. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MARINE FISHERIES

RESEARCH CENTER AND BANGLADESH RADIO AND TV WORKSHOP
AND PROPOSED CARDIO-VASCULAR UNIT;

E. THIRTY-TWO JAPANESE YOUTH COOPERATIVE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS FOR BANGLADESH, AN INCREASE OF TWO FROM FY
1976/77;

F. GRANT OF 102 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TECHNICAL STUDIES
IN J
BEN.

3. TOTAL FY 1977/78 COMMITMENT IS ABOUT DOLS 3 MILLION
HIGHER THAN JAPAN'S FY 1976/77 COMMITMENT.

4. JAPAN ALSO AGREED TO INCREASE IMPORTS OF BANGLA-
DESH JUTE PRODUCTS TO HELP CORRECT LOPSIDED TRADE BE-
TWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. BDG SPOKESMAN SAID BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THE NEED
FOR MORE PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION, AND MORE RAPID
UTILIZATION OF JAPANESE AID. (COMMENT: THE JAPANESE
HAVE BEEN VERY CONCERNED OVER SLOW PACE OF AID DIS-
BURSEMENT.)

6. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, TOP BDG OFFICIALS
WERE IRKED BY HATOYAMA'S REMARKS DURING FORMAL SESSIONS
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ABOUT BDG'S LACK OF ATTENTION TO PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOP-
MENT. HE REPORTEDLY OFFERED A BLUNT COMPARISON BE-
TWEEN BANGLADESH'S STATE-ORIENTED APPROACH AND DEVELOP-
MENT PERFORMANCE AND JAPAN'S POSTWAR ECONOMIC RECORD
IN WHICH PRIVATE SECTOR LED THE WAY AFTER INITIAL
BOOST FROM U.S. AID. JAPAN WOULD NOT RESPOND TO BDG'S
REQUEST FOR MUCH LARGER PROJECT AID, HATAYAMA SAID, UN-
TIL DEVELOPMENT PLANS GIVE HIGHER PRIORITY TO PRIVATE
SECTOR.

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